

Part-A

Read the following passage and answer questions Nos. 1-7:

Hides and skins are the raw material of the leather manufacturer or tanner. When man first used animal skins is not known. Skins, even when preserved by tanning, do not last as long as stone, pottery, metals and bones, and our knowledge about the early use of skins in vague. However, the numerous flint scrappers and bone or ivory sewing needles in our museums show that tens of thousands of years ago, in the early Stone Age, skins were prepared and used long before textiles. Nowadays, hides and skins are essential raw materials and important articles of commerce.

Any animal skin can be made into leather, but the skin chiefly used come from cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and horses. To a lesser extent the skins from dogs, deer, reptiles, marine animals, fish and birds are also used. Snakes, lizards, seals, whales and sharks all contribute to the leather manufacture.

'Hide' is the trade word for the skins of the larger animals such as full grown cattle and horses; and 'skin' for the smaller animals and immature larger animals, such as ponies and calves. Some skin are made into leather after the hair or wool has been removed; but the skins of the fur-bearing animals and sometimes of sheep, lambs and ponies are processed, or 'dressed', with the hair or wool still in place.

Most cattle hides come from South America, the U.S.A, and from Australia with smaller quantities from East and West Africa, Central America and the Sudan. Sheepskins come from Australia and New Zealand, and the best goat skins comes from India, Pakistan, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and Nigeria.

There is usually a long interval between the flaying, or stripping, of the skin from the animals and putting it into tannery for processing. If the flayed skins were left wet, they would go bad, just like meat; they must therefore be preserved in some way. The commonest method is salting. This involves sprinkling the skins with salt on their inner side; or immersing the skins completely in strong salt solution for some hours, after which they are drained and sprinkled with solid salt.

Another method is drying is to stretch the skins out on the grounds, or on frames and to dry them in the sun, or even better in the shade. Beetles and other insects eat skins and must be kept away by the use of some chemical such as D.D.T. The dried skins are called 'crust' leather and are sent in this form to the tanneries for the very complicated process of tanning. After tanning, only the middle layer of the skin is left to provide leather as we know it. It is to the closely knit fiber structure of the middle layer that leather owes its virtues of flexibility, strength and elasticity, its resistance to rubbing and its unique power of allowing water vapour and air to pass through it while resisting penetration by liquid water itself.

1. Answer the questions below. Do not copy any sentence from the passage above. Write the answers in your own sentences having your own wordings and phrasing: $3 \times 10 = 30$

- (a) What is the passage about?
- (b) How could we come to know that animal skins were prepared and used long before textiles?
- (c) Which animal skins can mainly, and which animal skins can to a lesser extent be used and made into leather?
- (d) What is the difference between 'hide' and 'skin'?
- (e) What happens to flayed skin if left wet, and what is the commonest method of preserving flayed skins?
- (f) What is D.D.T.? And why is it used on the skins?
- (g) What is 'crust' leather? Why is it sent to tannery?
- (h) What virtues does middle layer of the skin, known as leather, owe?
- (i) What knowledge have you had from this passage?
- (j) Give a suitable title of the passage.

2. Guess the meanings of the following words/expressions using contextual clues: (The words are underlined in the passage) $1 \times 5 = 05$

- (a) raw
- (b) pottery
- (c) vague
- (d) tannery
- (e) penetration

3. Fill in the table by putting words in the empty cells according to their parts of speech: $1 \times 5 = 05$

Noun	Verb	Adjective
(a) Strength		X
	(b) resist	
(c) Penetration		
		(d) essential
(e) Preservation		

4. Join the sets of sentences into one sentence. 5×2=10

- (a) Skins do not last as long as pottery. Our knowledge about the early use of skin is vague.
- (b) Hides are essential raw materials. Important articles of commerce.
- (c) This involves sprinkling the skins. Salt on their inner side.
- (d) Most cattle hides come from South America. The best goat skins come from India.
- (e) Vapour and air to pass through it. Resisting penetration by liquid water itself.

5. Write a sentence with each of the following words/expressions. Copying 10 of any sentence from the passage must be avoided.

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| (a) Immature; | (b) interval; |
| (c) flexibility; | (d) elasticity; |
| (e) unique; | (f) wet; |
| (g) stretch out; | (h) salt solution |
| (i) dry; | (j) immersion |

6. Summarize the passage in your own words in 100 words. 20

7. Write a feature to the editor of a renowned English Daily on "The role and importance of tannery in making hides and skins into leather". 20

Part-B

8. Write an essay in about 1000 words on any one of the following topics: 50

- (a) Importance of protecting our environment.
- (b) Problems and prospects of handicraft sector in Bangladesh.
- (c) Bengali New Year Festival.

9. Translate the following passage into Bangla: 25

Standing knee deep in a cement tank of milky water, Dinesh Kumar drunks clothes before vigorously scrubbing them with a brush at an outdoor laundry in the Indian Capital.

After quitting high school, Kumar joined his father among the ranks of traditional washer men who have hand-cleaned the sprawling city's dirty clothes for generations.

Over the years, the work of ‘dhobiwallahs’ has modernized to a degree, with industrial machines now used at some laundries for washing heavier loads of curtains, bed covers and towels.

But 32-year-old Kumar said that most of the washing was still done by hand. The more delicate and expensive garments also need to be handled carefully to ensure sewn on beads or embroidery were not damaged.

After every wash in a milky bath of bleach and detergent, Kumar inspects the cloths closely to ensure they are spotlessly clean. “Most of the clothes come here from hotels, embassies or beauty parlours. If we don’t wash properly, they will stop sending the clothes over”, Kumar added. Once the clothes are scrubbed, Kumar rinses them in the cement tub, wearing a plastic sheet around his waist to stop his rolled-up trousers getting wet.

Such so called ‘dhobi ghats’ are normally set up next to a river, but these washermen in New Delhi rely on well water stored in cement tanks for their supply.

After the clothes are hung out on lines strung up on terrace roof tops to dry, they are ironed, often by the women in the washermens’ family.

10. Translate the following passage into English:

একমাত্র হানান ছাড়া আমাদের সবার কাছেই অস্ত্র ছিল। মাত্র ১৪ বছর বয়স হানানের। দেখতেও হোটেলটো, কিষ্ট বেশ শক্তসমর্থ। আমি তাকে একটা ময়লা গেঞ্জি ও একটা হফ প্যান্ট পরিয়ে ঠিক রাখাল ছেলের মতো করি। ঘাঁধীনতা সংগ্রামে সেও যে একজন যোদ্ধা তাকে দেখে বিশ্বাস করার উপায় রাখলো না। অত্যন্ত নিভীক এ দেশপ্রেমিক কিশোর। আমাদের ৩০০/৪০০ গজ সামনে তাকে চলতে বললাম, কারণ তাকে ‘ক্ষাউটের’ দায়িত্ব দেয়া হয়েছে। সে সামনে এগিয়ে যেতে যেতে চারদিকে সতর্ক দৃষ্টিতে নজর রাখলো। এক নির্মম শক্তির সংগে আমাদের লড়াই, তাই সামান্য অস্তর্ক হলেই নিষ্ঠুরতম হত্যার শিকার হতে হবে। সুতরাং হানানের কাজ হলো সে খেয়াল রাখবে কোথাও পাঞ্জাবী সৈন্য বা রাজাকাররা ওঁ পেতে আছে কিনা। থাকলে সে যেন দেখে যখন বুকতে পারে যে সেখানে কোনো শক্ত নেই, তখন আমাদের এগিয়ে যেতে হাতে ইশারা দেয়। আর আমরা তার ইশারায় অগ্রসর হই। এভাবে তিনি ঘন্টায় আমরা মাত্র দেড় মাইল পথ অতিক্রম করি। কখনো কখনো সে গ্রামবাসী অথবা ছোট ছেলেকে জিজ্ঞাসা করে সেখানে কোনো রাজাকার কিংবা পাঞ্জাবী সৈন্য দেখেছে কিনা।

BCS , Bank

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